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# Articles in Today's Clips

## Tuesday, July 8, 2008

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## Muskegon Chronicle

### Child porn photographer gets 40 years

Tuesday, July 08, 2008

By John S. Hausman

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MUSKEGON -- A 50-year-old Muskegon man is going to prison for up to 40 years for manufacturing child pornography by taking sexual photos of under-age boys from his neighborhood.

Mark Edwin Abbey of 760 Catherine also got lesser, simultaneous prison terms Monday for possessing child porn and accosting a child for immoral purposes; and, in a separate case, third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a person between the ages of 13 and 15.

The minimum time Abbey can serve in prison in 171/2 years. But chronic child-sex offenders usually serve more than their minimum sentences, and as a third-time habitual felon, Abbey may never make parole. The maximum sentence would keep him behind bars until he's 90.

"Good luck in prison, you son of a b----," said a man in the courtroom audience after sentence was pronounced. Outside court afterward, the man said he was a relative of one of Abbey's victims but declined to identify himself.

Before sentencing, Abbey tried to withdraw his no-contest pleas to the four felony counts, claiming he hadn't understood what he was doing when he pleaded last month. A no-contest plea is not an admission of guilt but results in conviction, and judges treat it as a guilty plea at sentencing.

Fourteenth Circuit Judge James M. Graves Jr. rejected Abbey's motion to withdraw his pleas. The judge noted that Abbey had said, under oath, that he understood the pleas at the time he made them.

Senior Assistant Muskegon County Prosecutor Joseph J. Bader also noted Abbey's extensive experience with the criminal justice system, including a 1975 conviction for child cruelty and a 1992 conviction for second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a person younger than 13. For the latter, Abbey served a 1994-2005 prison term, "maxing out" without ever making parole.

Bader asked for minimum sentences at the top of state sentencing guidelines -- which Graves imposed. The prosecutor noted that a pre-sentence investigation by the state probation department said Abbey's "prognosis appears poor" and that he had not learned from his time in prison.

"The defendant has proven that he is a threat in the community ... to some of the most vulnerable among us," Bader said.

Then, when it came time for Abbey to make a final statement to the judge before sentencing, his rambling remarks restated his wish for a trial. He also expressed a desire to sit down privately with the judge and certain other people, so that "we could clear this up in a few minutes. ... I been set up. I just need you to verify this."

Without responding to those remarks, Graves then imposed sentence:

\* Child sexually abusive activity (making child porn) -- 15 to 40 years.

\* Possession of child porn -- four to eight years.

\* Accosting a child for immoral purposes -- four to eight years.

\* Third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a person between the ages of 13 and 15 -- 17 1/2 to 30 years.

All the sentences are to be served concurrently.

At a preliminary examination last December in the porn case, a boy testified that Abbey took photographs of him naked when the boy was 13 years old, offering \$50 per picture. Also in evidence were exhibits of some 200 child-porn photographs and police testimony. At least some of the photographs appeared to have been taken by Abbey in his home.

In the sex case, another boy testified at a preliminary examination in January that Abbey performed oral sex on him when the boy was 14, at least 10 times over several months.

The investigation of Abbey began Nov. 15 after a visitor to Abbey's home was shown some of the pictures, police said. Police executed a search warrant Nov. 21 at his home and seized child pornography and computer equipment, including a Web camera.

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Tuesday, July 8, 2008

**Taylor**

**Ice cream man faces trial in sex case**

**Doug Guthrie / The Detroit News**

**TAYLOR** -- After hearing the testimony of one teen on Monday, an ice cream truck operator accused of luring young boys to his home, where they allegedly were bound and sexually assaulted, avoided hearing from three more boys by agreeing to be bound over for trial. No date has been set.

David Roark, 37, was ordered to stand trial by 23rd District Judge Geno Salomone, who continued to hold Roark in the Wayne County Jail on \$2 million bond.

Roark's court-appointed lawyer said Roark, who now faces trial in Wayne County Circuit Court on multiple felonies, including rape and kidnapping, wanted to avoid putting more of his alleged victims on the witness stand.

The 15-year-old who testified Monday said he was held in handcuffs in Roark's home for hours while the man took video recordings and talked about how the boy was his prisoner. He was 13 then.

The media was warned to not identify or take photos of the youth in court. Claims made by the other boys, ages 9 to 15, stem from events within the past three months.

Roark is alleged to have met the boys in his neighborhood. Some have said they were lured to Roark's home with talk about work in his garage. Some have said they were paid.

"The allegations are disturbing, but what he is saying is that nothing sexual took place," said Roark's lawyer, Stanford Schulman.

"We have these claims of kidnapping and imprisonment, but what happened was these boys would come

to the house, and he would give them handcuffs and take pictures. But these boys would come over all the time, including after these alleged events."

Salomone ordered Roark to undergo tests for psychological competency and criminal responsibility.

*You can reach Doug Guthrie at (313) 222-2548 or [dguthrie@detnews.com](mailto:dguthrie@detnews.com).*

# Taylor ice cream man handcuffed me, teen testifies

BY ZLATI MEYER • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • July 8, 2008

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A Taylor ice cream truck driver accused of molesting children was bound over for trial Monday in 23rd District Court in Taylor.

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David Roark, 37, is charged in cases involving four children, though preliminary exams for three of them were waived.

The preliminary exam before Judge Geno Salomone was for three charges of child sexually abusive action and one charge of unlawful imprisonment for allegedly handcuffing or tying up a now-15-year-old boy and photographing him.

"He was the ice cream man in my neighborhood," the teen testified. He said he was handcuffed twice and that Roark tied his hands, too. "He said, 'I bet you can't get out of this.' I said, 'I bet I could.' "

The other witness, Taylor police Detective Nick Hill, testified that Roark told him he did the things he's accused of doing.

"He said he got sexual gratification from it," Hill said.

Roark posted the pictures on Web sites and let other people view them, Hill testified.

Roark is scheduled to appear in Wayne County Circuit Court on July 21 on all four cases, which Assistant Prosecutor Keith Clark said involve boys ages 13 to 17.

Roark also is charged with two counts of kidnapping, one count each of first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct, seven counts of child sexually abusive activity and a count of unlawful imprisonment.

According to Roark's attorney, Sanford Schulman, the defendant waived the three other preliminary exams to spare the boys from the witness stand.

If convicted, the maximum sentence is life imprisonment for kidnapping, life for first-degree criminal sexual conduct, 20 years for child sexual abusive activity, 15 years for second-degree criminal sexual conduct and 15 years for unlawful imprisonment.

Taylor ice cream man handcuffed me, teen testifies

Roark is being held in the Wayne County Jail on \$2-million bond.

Contact **ZLATI MEYER** at 313-223-4439 or [meyer@freepress.com](mailto:meyer@freepress.com).

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# Boy, 1, shot during fight over glasses

BY SARAH TOMPKINS • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • July 8, 2008

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An unidentified man shot a 21-year-old man and the 1-year-old boy at about 10:30 p.m. yesterday in the Chalfonte and Schaefer area during an apparent robbery attempt over the man's Cartier glasses, police said.

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"This individual told him to give him the glasses, and as he attempted to turn and run away he was struck with a bullet," said James Tate, police spokesman. "The bullet went through his hand and that's when it hit the child in the back."

The victims were taken to a nearby hospital, he said, and as of last night both were listed in temporary serious condition.

It is unclear at this time what relation the 21-year-old has with the boy or if the glasses, valued at thousands of dollars, were stolen in the incident, police said.

Officials are continuing to investigate the incident.

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# MORNING SUN

## Food assistance requests jump in Isabella

By LISA SATAYUT  
Sun Staff Writer

While all Michigan counties have been reporting an increase in the number of residents needing food assistance, Isabella County just came in first.

"The cost of everything is going up," Director for Isabella County Department of Human Services Mark Stevens said. "People are working low-income jobs and not making ends meet."

A recent quarterly report released by the Michigan League for Human Services lists Isabella County as having the highest increase of food assistance at almost 23.6 percent for the months of January, February and March.

And those numbers are only getting higher. The number of those needing help for May was higher than the latest reported quarterly average. That number is 4,788.

Sharon Parks, president and CEO of the Michigan League for Human Services, said the trend is consistently getting higher.

"We don't see it slowing down at all," Parks said of those residents needing help filling their empty shelves. "The trends have been pretty steady."

Parks said there are a number of reasons that can be attributed to the increase. Some residents may have recently exhausted their unemployment and are now eligible for food assistance. While on unemployment they may have been receiving a check that was too high to qualify for food assistance. Since they no longer receive unemployment they probably qualify now, she said.

Parks also said winter heating bills may have hurt some families. Large layoffs and the number of those unemployed also play a factor.

"Maybe they were fine last year and this year their not, maybe they exhausted their savings," Parks said.

One thing is known for sure; the rising cost of fuel has impacted the cost of nearly everything.

The fact that Isabella County houses a university might also play a role in the increase. Stevens said that more and more college students are in need of food assistance.

"We have a lot of CMU students," Stevens said. "They know that if they want to get ahead they need a college education and there are not a lot of resources for them," he said. The students must claim themselves as independent to qualify and not live with their parents.



The increase has the local DHS working double time.

"We've been doing a great deal of business unfortunately," Stevens said. Although the work load has drastically increased for the department the number of people processing that work has not.

"We are very, very busy," Stevens said. "We are here to help people and do our best, I just wish we had some help," he said.

He said that it is currently taking a little longer to process the paperwork than it was before the increase, but he wants residents to know that the department is working as fast as they can in order to assist with the process. But, he said mistakes cannot be made and the paperwork must be filled out accurately.

Stevens understands that the process can be frustrating, especially with the delay which is currently about one week longer.

"People are already hurting to scrape up enough money and then they get the courage to come in here," Stevens said. "That's not easy if you're proud... it's doubly frustrating," he said of the wait.

He said there are expedited requests where assistance must be provided in seven days and requests that take a little longer.

"They have to have absolutely nothing," he said of the expedited requests.

The non-expedited requests are currently taking about 30 days.

"Before we had an average of about three weeks," he said. "With the increases it is getting difficult to get it done in a timely fashion," Stevens said.

Stevens is also the director for Midland County.

Parks said that the numbers are an indicator that the economy is struggling.

"The economy is in a distressing state," she said.

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## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Fall program aims to deter gangsters

Tuesday, July 08, 2008

BY ROBERTO ACOSTA

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KALAMAZOO -- The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety will kick off a program this fall in the public schools to try to curtail problems among youths, including gang membership.

The Gang Resistance Education and Training program, or GREAT, is designed to deter participation in gangs, youth violence and delinquency.

The district's three middle schools and nine of its 16 elementary schools are participating, said Public Safety Capt. Brian Uridge.

"We are trying to develop mentoring relationships with these kids at an early age to dissuade them from joining gangs," Uridge said.

Fifth- and eighth-graders are targeted under the program, which focuses on providing life skills and alternatives to violence and delinquent behavior.

The basic components of the program are a 13-session middle-school curriculum, an elementary-school curriculum, a summer program and family training.

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## Son who found body expected to testify in DeKleine murder trial

Posted by [jhiskes](#) July 08, 2008 12:26PM



Press Photo/Cory OlsenKen DeKleine sits in Ottawa County Circuit Court during jury selection Tuesday morning while he stands trial for first-degree murder.

GRAND HAVEN - Attorneys picked a jury this morning in the Ken DeKleine murder case, with opening arguments to begin this afternoon.

One of the first witnesses expected on the stand is DeKleine's 16-year-old son, Christopher DeKleine, who found his mother's body in their basement on Jan. 10.

Police say Ken DeKleine, a veteran Holland police officer at the time, placed her body with a rope around her neck to look like a suicide.

DeKleine, 45, has allegedly admitted to a Michigan State Police detective that he hid in the attic of his estranged wife's garage overnight, then emerged in the morning after their two children had left the house.

He allegedly strangled Lori DeKleine, 43, with a strap. During the altercation, she bit his lip, causing an injury that required stitches.

DeKleine initially told investigators that a Dutch oven fell on his head, causing the lip injury.

Categories: [Breaking News](#), [DeKleine case](#)

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# This is It!! Today is the final day to Register

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If you've finally gotten into the political spirit and you've decided that you're definitely going to make your voice heard – you'd better do it today by close of business, or else your voice will remain silent and your right frittered away – again.

Voting is a method for a group such as a meeting or an electorate to make a decision or express an opinion — often following discussions, debates or election campaigns and is an important part of the democratic process.

A vote is an individual's act of by which he or she expresses support or preference for a certain motion (e.g. a proposed resolution), a certain candidate, or a certain selection of candidates.

If you'd like to participate in this process – today [July 7th] is the last day to register to vote in the 2008 primary election. If for some reason you miss this opportunity, you'll have until October 6th to get yourself registered so that you may participate in the political process for the general election in November. Please note that voter registrations are accepted at all Michigan Department of Human Services county offices.

Michigan residents can also go to any Department of Human Services location across the state as places there they can register to vote.

Individuals seeing caseworkers, conducting supervised visitations or visiting the offices for any reason can complete and submit voter registration materials. **Of Note** Individuals are not required to be receiving DHS services to complete voter registration applications.

For a list of the nearest DHS office, go to [www.michigan.gov/dhs-countyoffices](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs-countyoffices)  
For more information about voter registration and elections, go to the Michigan Secretary of State at [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

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